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Change in Specifications on Sewer Saddles

The materials and methods specified for sewer taps are intended to allow the connection to last for the life of the main without repair. Wichita sewer inspection and repair crews have observed many occurrences of saddles pulling off of mains. These and other connection failures have called into question the reliability of saddles that are cemented with solvent-weld glue but not banded to mains.

To insure that sewer connections are secure enough to survive the rigors of backfilling and will serve for the life of the mains, the City will require each sewer saddle to be installed using epoxy and to be banded to the main. Many drain layers already install bands as a matter of practice. The City of Wichita tap crew has been using banded saddles for several months.

The City will require saddles to have a flange at least one inch wide on each side of the connection. The saddle must be set with epoxy and each flange must be secured with a stainless steel band incorporating a stainless steel worm gear. In lieu of a stainless worm gear, a drain layer may cover a steel gear with epoxy. Predco epoxy kit part numbers 4E and 6E are approved. Solvent-weld cement will not be approved for attaching saddles to mains.

The City of Wichita would like to allow drain layers and plumbers a reasonable length of time to use up existing stocks of non-banded saddles. The requirement for banded saddles will go into effect May 1, 2005.

Grounding of Metal Boxes

Section 250.148 of the 2002 NEC states in part — “Where circuit conductors are spliced within a box, or terminated on equipment within or supported by a box, any separate equipment grounding conductors associated with those circuit conductors shall be spliced or joined within the box or to the box with devices suitable for the use... The arrangement of grounding connections shall be such that the disconnection or the removal of a receptacle, luminaire (fixture), or other device fed from the box will not interfere with or interrupt the grounding continuity.

Exception: The equipment grounding conductor permitted in 250.146(D) shall not be required to be connected to the other equipment grounding conductors or to the box.

(A) Metal Boxes. A connection shall be made between the one or more equipment grounding conductors and a metal box by means of a grounding screw that shall be used for no other purpose or a listed grounding device.”

This is stating that the metal box must be grounded to the grounding conductor that you would have if installing NM cable, MC cable, etc. or if in a raceway and installing a grounding conductor with either a grounding screw or a listed grounding device such as a ground clip. The exception is for isolated receptacles but the metal box still must be grounded either by an equipment grounding conductor that is ran with the circuit conductors or by a wiring method that serves as an equipment grounding conductor. The electrical inspectors will be checking at the rough-in stage to see that all metal boxes are grounded and if applicable to the equipment grounding conductor.

Tom Kerschen

Construction Inspection Supervisor, Electrical / Elevator

Plumbing & Mechanical

Attention to all contractors that install gas piping: Anytime you change a gas line, move a gas line, redirect a gas line, add on to a gas line or make any other changes to gas lines, **a test must be made and approved by this office.**

Scheduling Inspections: Now that we have e-connect, please make sure you are scheduling the type of inspection you actually want. We frequently have inspections scheduled that are not the inspections actually desired or needed.

Reminder to all Mechanical Contractors: Rex Williams has retired from Central Inspection. Ron Shores and Stoney Nethercot are covering inspections in Rex’s old area until we find a replacement for Rex Williams. Please take this into consideration during our recruitment for and training of a new inspector. It would help them if your inspections could be scheduled as “no preference” whenever possible. This will greatly assist us in scheduling and completing our daily inspections, and will help to serve you better.

Dan Leidy, Supervisor, Plumbing & Mechanical

IBC Code Adoption Update

Central Inspection has decided not to pursue the adoption of the 2003 International Building Code, but instead will wait for the release of the 2006 version. In the interim period, staff has reviewed the 2003 to determine if proposed changes found in that document should be incorporated into the currently adopted 2000 IBC. The proposed amendment package has been reviewed by the Board of Code Standards and Appeals (BCSA) and the BCSA has recommended the following proposed amendment changes for the 2000 IBC. Staff anticipates review by the City Council in mid-April 2005.

- 1). Add language to Section 303.1 on assembly occupancies to clarify that adult care facilities (adult day care) where occupants are capable of responding to emergency situations without physical assistance from staff is a Group A-3 Occupancy.
Add an exception to Section 303.1 that classifies assembly uses having an occupant load of 50 or less as a Group B Occupancy.
- 2). Modify Section 308.2 (Group I-1) and 310. (Residential Group R) to allow facilities of 10 or fewer persons to be considered as Group R-3 Occupancies. This change would be consistent with prior practice under the Uniform Building Code.
- 3). Drop current language found in Section 406.6.2 the 2000 IBC (current amendment) for proposed language in the 2003. The language in the 2000 IBC is fairly restrictive in regards to fire barrier requirements for mixed-use repair garages, and not allowing the use of the non-separated use provisions found in Section 302. The 2003 language treats repair garages like other occupancies, in that, the fire barrier and a non-separated use provisions is driven by area, occupancy and construction type considerations.
- 4). Bring over the language for smoke partitions found in the 2003 and incorporate it into the corridor provisions found in Section 407.3. This is done to clarify the intent of corridor protection for hospitals and other Group I-2 Occupancies.
- 5). Incorporate a new provision that allows one story Group A-3 Occupancies that are fully sprinklered and having 60 foot yards to constructed as unlimited area buildings.
- 6). Add language to allow multiple electrical services to buildings where each area is separated with two-hour fire barriers in lieu of a fire wall. Limited to situations where a fire wall in not required for area considerations.
- 7). Clarify the requirements on continuity of fire barriers at architectural features having concealed spaces on the building exterior. The current language would require that the fire barrier extend through the concealed element and that all supporting structural members be protected. The new language would limit the protection to just the concealed element.
- 8). Clarify shaft requirements to indicate that the number of stories include basements, but not mezzanines.
- 9). Allow listed putty pads as an exception to membrane penetration protection.
- 10). Replace current language found in Section 713.5 (exterior structural members) with proposed language from the 2003 for clarification purposes.
- 11). Add an exception to Section 715.6.1 (through penetrations) to allow a duct to penetrate three floors or less without a fire damper at each floor, subject to five conditions set out in the exception.

Cont. on page 4

**IBC Code
Adoption
Update** Cont.

12). Add language to eliminate ceiling radiation dampers where exhaust duct penetrations are protected in accordance with Section 712.4.2 and are located within the wall cavity of the unit and do not pass through another dwelling unit or tenant space.

13). Modify language for enclosed parking garages to trigger sprinkler protection at 12,000 square feet, similar to repair garages. The current requirement requires sprinklers for all S-2 parking garages without exception. In addition, change commercial parking garages from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet as the trigger point for sprinkler protection.

14). Modify the fire alarm and system initiation requirements for Group A Occupancies to clarify that the system is based on an individual room capacity for both, not the aggregate occupant load of the fire area.

15). Add language to require that all ADA accessible parking spaces be designed per the “Universal Parking Design Standards” of ADAAG Appendix 4.6.3 (for building permit applications submitted on or after 1/1/2006).

16). Add language to regulate side reach ranges for wheelchair users to mirror that of forward reach ranges: not less than 15 inches nor more than 48 inches.

17). Clarify that manually operated water closet flush controls must be located on the wide side of the toilet area.

18). Require that raised counters or bars where alcoholic beverages are served be provided with a lowered section to accommodate the disabled, except when the seating capacity is 10 or fewer and equivalent service is provided.

Excavations Made for Sewer Taps and Wye Inspections and Repairs by City Crews

Paragraph 16.04.120 of the code of the City of Wichita governs excavations made for City crews to set wyes and taps. City crews appreciate the diligence with which drain layers and plumbers meet the requirements of this paragraph.

This paragraph was written years ago when the City was using a hydraulic cutter to make taps and it currently is vague regarding the actual size of the hole and its placement regarding the city sewer line. City of Wichita Sewer Maintenance Division offers this language to help clarify what the paragraph means. For the time being, this is a clarification and is not an official change in the Code.

No tap will be made, wye set, or saddle set or repaired in the city sewers by the city division of sewer maintenance unless the excavation is a minimum of two feet wide by three feet long, with the three-foot distance being perpendicular to the centerline of the city main. If shoring is used there must be two feet of width inside the shoring members. The connection shall be at least one foot from either side of the excavation. The floor of the working area shall be horizontal and level with the bottom of the connection. No part of the working area can have earth overhanging it (no tunneling). An area under and around the pipe centered at the connection will be excavated for installing a saddle strap. This area is to be a between six and twelve inches wide centered on the connection. The clearance between the bottom of the pipe and the earth in this area shall be at least one half inch. The excavation shall be adequately shored or sloped in compliance with OSHA Standards CFR 29 Part 1926 Subpart P for the safety to employees entering therein for the purpose of inspection or for making a tap or setting a wye or saddle.

**Excavations
for
Sewer Taps**

NOTICE TO WICHITA-LICENSED CONTRACTORS

Internet Permitting and Inspection Scheduling is Now Available Through “E-Permits”

E-PERMITS

The City of Wichita and the Office of Central Inspection (OCI) are pleased to announce the availability of “E-Permits” to all City of Wichita licensed building and trade contractors, *effective February 4, 2005*. As of March 11, 2005 (or about five weeks after official rollout), over 500 building and trade permits had already been submitted and processed through “E-Permits”. Licensed contractor sign up is simple. Simply log onto <http://permits.wichita.gov> and sign in at the [Contractor Login](#) page by using your 4-digit contractor license number (e.g., 0050 for license #50, or 0555 for license #555) and your assigned and secure 4-digit TELUS Pin number.

Initially, permit application types that can be processed over the Internet through “E-Permits” include:

- 1) commercial or residential roofing & siding;
- 2) 1 & 2 family remodeling (not including additions); and
- 3) commercial and residential electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits.

This will allow licensed contractors to submit permit applications electronically and to electronically receive permit review/approvals (with an assigned permit number) within one (1) business day or less.

NOTE: If you are not currently participating in the OCI “Fax Permit Program” and/or do not have your company credit card on file with OCI, we strongly encourage you to contact Gary Cortner at 268-4460 to set up an account so that submitted permits can be paid immediately upon approval, and full, unconditional permits can be issued.

Internet inspection scheduling is available to licensed contractors for ALL permits and permits types (residential & commercial), although a few types of “one-hour window” inspection types (e.g., footing/ foundation, braced wall line & bond-beam) are not yet available for scheduling through “E-Permits”.

When specifications for Internet submission of electronic site plans are finalized, permits for 1 & 2 family new construction/additions will also be processed through “E-Permits”.

The “E-Permits” permitting and inspection scheduling system is secure, and is available only to licensed contractors. We think Internet access to complete permit application & approval information, and to complete inspection summaries and results will be quite beneficial to contractors in managing their permit activity.

OCI is extremely pleased to offer this new permit and inspection scheduling service to you, and has been able to develop this technology primarily due to the support, assistance and cooperation of the building industry. We sincerely hope you find it beneficial to your business. Please don’t hesitate to contact the Office of Central Inspection if you have questions or need assistance.

BACKYARD DRAINAGE POLICY

On June 20th Of 2000, the Wichita City Council approved a policy for backyard drainage. The policy affected all subdivisions platted on or after October 1, 2000. This policy was developed with input from local builders, developers and subdivision engineers. The requirements affecting the building contractor are as follows:

Builders are required to develop individual lot grading plans consistent with the subdivision master drainage plan and to construct foundation walls and basement walls in compliance with the master drainage plan. The objective is to insure that final grades can be set so that will work in compliance with the master drainage plan for the lot and the area. Minor variances may be allowed provided that there is no negative impact on the master drainage plan.

Builders are required to submit verification from a surveyor after the foundation/basement walls are poured and **before the plumbing underground inspection is performed** in order to verify that the walls are in conformance with the lot grading plan. This verification can be provided by a Kansas registered engineer or surveyor and must be submitted to the Office of Central Inspection.



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